**Malnutrition among children**

891. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of malnutrition among children of 0—6 years, their number and percentage in the country, State-wise;

(b) how it compares with the neighbouring countries;

(c) whether the level of malnutrition among rural children, particularly girl/SC/ST/ child has not declined, despite the mid-day meal scheme;

(d) whether malnutrition-childhood scenario reflects poorly on the performance of ICDS and anganwadi scheme; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) According to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-III), 2005-2006, 46% children under three years age are underweight. The State-wise prevalence may be seen in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) As per the 'UNICEF's Report the State of the World's Children 2007', the percentage of under-fives suffering from under nutrition in the neighbouring countries is as below:

| | |
|---|---|
| India | 47 |
| Bangladesh | 48 |
| Pakistan | 38 |
| Srilanka | 29 |
| Myanmar | 32 |
| Bhutan | 19 |
| Nepal | 48 |

(c) As per the National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau (NNMB) Survey, the malnutrition level among the girl child has reduced from 60.5% in 2002 to 55.1% in 2006.

(d) No, Sir. Child malnutrition is a multifaceted problem, the determinants of which vary from female illiteracy, early marriages of girls, teenage pregnancies, poor feeding practices, poor access to health care, hygiene, sanitation and other social services. The fact that 17 States have registered improvement in nutritional status of children while nutritional status has declined in the remaining 12 States from 1998-99 to 2005-2006 reveal that factors other than performance of ICDS are important contributory factors.

(e) Apart from the new initiatives, the steps taken by the Government, in the recent past, to improve the delivery of services, are:

(i) The scheme has been expanded twice in the year 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 during the Tenth Five Year Plan.

(ii) The Government has doubled the financial norms for supplementary nutrition from Re.1 to Rs. 2/- per beneficiary per day.

(iii) From the year 2005-06, 50% cost of supplementary nutrition is also being shared with the States/UTs.

(iv) A Central Monitoring Unit (CMU) has been set up at National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD) to monitor the scheme through an independent professional organization, institution in each State/UT. This would be in addition to the monitoring mechanism in place at present.

(v) A National Level Monitoring Committee has also been constituted under the Chairpersonship of MOS(WCD) to oversee the entire functioning of the Scheme and to ensure that the services are delivered to the Target groups in an effective manner and the objectives of the scheme are fulfilled within the overall framework of the ICDS scheme.

(vi) Constant emphasis on States to :

- Ensure regular supply of supplementary nutrition as per schematic norms:
- Ensure effective convergence of health, nutrition, education and safe drinking water services under various programmes.

***Statement***

*State-wise prevalence of undernutrition among children 0—3 years*

| Sl. No. | State/UT | Percentage of children under 3 years underweight |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1 | Mizoram | 21.6 |
| 2 | Sikkim | 22.6 |
| 3 | Manipur | 23.8 |
| 4 | Punjab | 27.0 |
| 5 | Kerala | 28.8 |
| 6 | Goa | 29.3 |
| 7 | Jammu & Kashmir | 29.4 |
| 8 | Nagaland | 29.7 |
| 9 | Delhi | 33.1 |
| 10 | Tamil Nadu | 33.2 |
| 11 | Himachal Pradesh | 36.2 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 12 | Andhra Pradesh | 36.6 |
| 13 | Arunachal Pradesh | 36.9 |
| 14 | Uttaranchal | 38.0 |
| 15 | Tripura | 39.0 |
| 16 | Maharashtra | 39.7 |
| 17 | Assam | 40.4 |
| 18 | Karnataka | 41.1 |
| 19 | Haryana | 41.9 |
| 20 | West Bengal | 43.5 |
| 21 | Orissa | 44.0 |
| 22 | Rajasthan | 44.0 |
| 23 | Meghalaya | 46.3 |
| 24 | Uttar Pradesh | 47.3 |
| 25 | Gujarat | 47.4 |
| 26 | Chhattisgarh | 52.1 |
| 27 | Bihar | 58.4 |
| 28 | Jharkhand | 59.3 |
| 29 | Madhya Pradesh | 60.3 |
| | INDIA: | 45.9 |

**Destitute homes**

892. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of destitute homes functioning throughout the country;

(b) the welfare schemes launched for the welfare of the destitutes;

(c) whether it is proposed to grant any maintenance allowance to the destitute women; and

(d) the details of schemes launched for the health-care and the education of children of destitute women?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The details of homes for destitute children, functioning under the schemes, A Program for Juvenile Justice and Scheme for Assistance to Homes (Shishu Greh) for Children to Promote In-Country